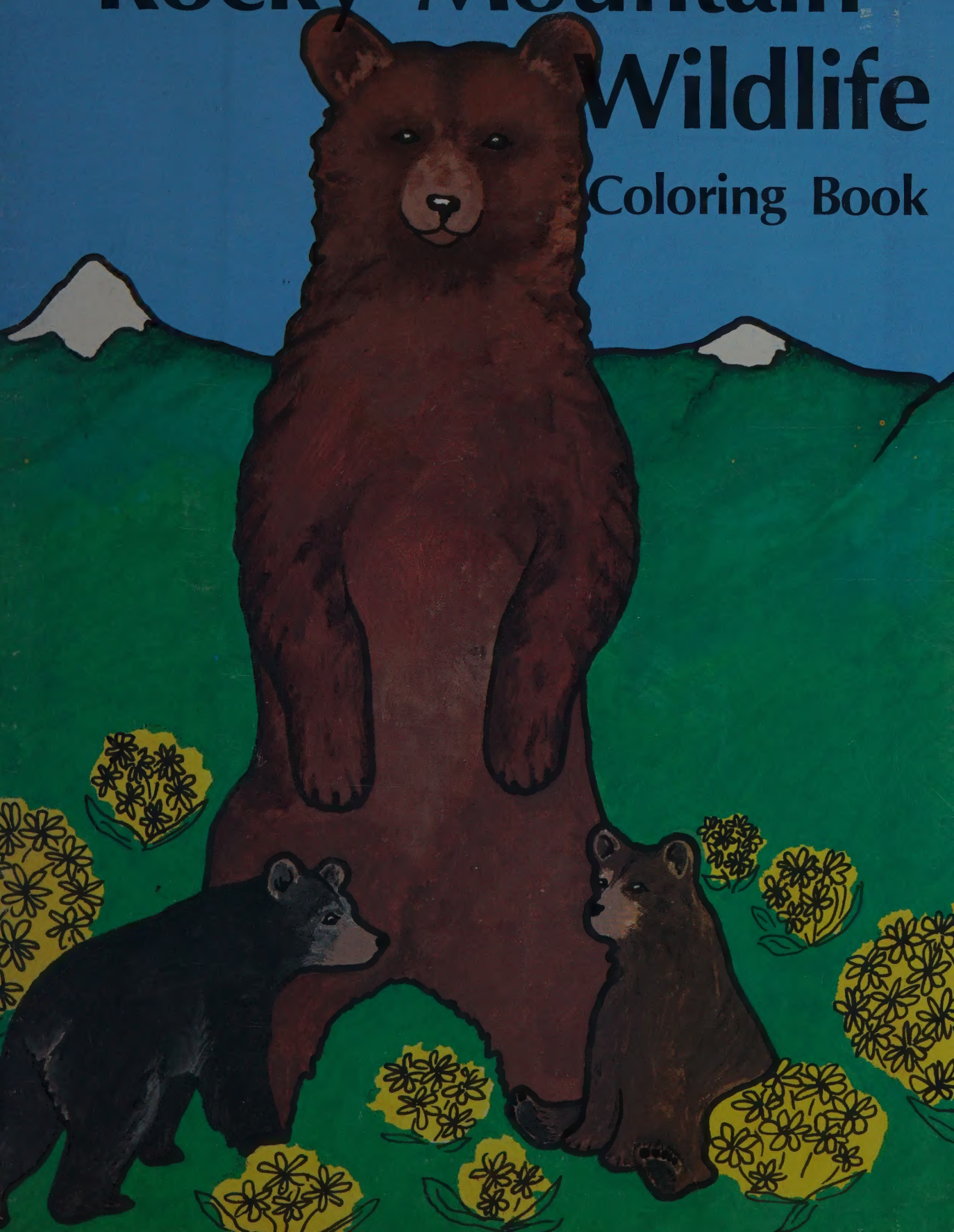


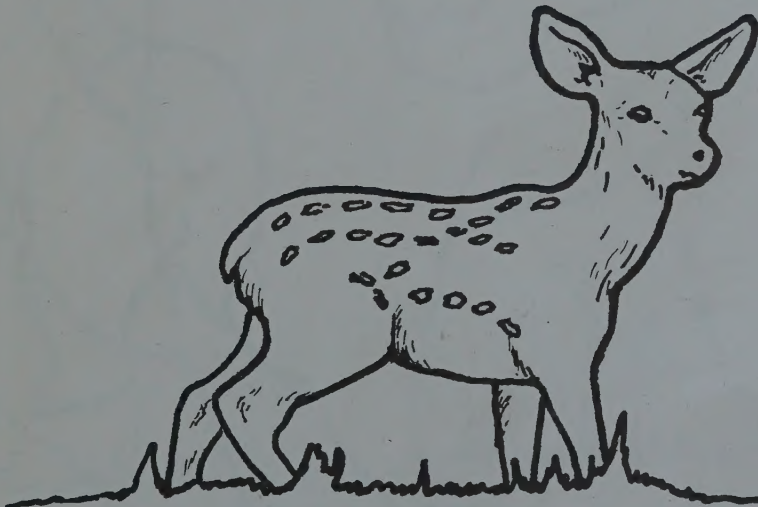
Rocky Mountain Wildlife

Coloring Book



ROCKY MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE Coloring Book

Written and illustrated by Joanne Luton



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BEARS

The big and fierce grizzly bear is recognized by the large hump on its shoulders and by its long sharp claws. Climbing trees is almost impossible because of its long claws.

The little bear below is a black bear cub. When the female black bear senses danger she sends her cubs up a tree. Black bears often give birth to twins. A 350-pound bear has cubs that weigh 6 to 8 ounces each at birth.



Black Bear Cub



Grizzly Bear



SAGE GROUSE

This male sage grouse has his feathers ruffled, ready for the mating season. During the early spring he struts and makes loud booming-drumming noises from a puffed, bag-like throat.

The hen makes a shallow nest hidden in the sagebrush in which to lay her eggs. Grouse spend much of their time in the brush and feed on the buds and leaves of sagebrush.

Grouse have feathered legs and nostrils for protection during the cold winter.





BEAVER

Busy as a beaver. If you stand quietly at a beaver pond, you might see a beaver cut trees and willows for food and building material. A beaver lodge is built in a pond with sticks, chunks of trees, and mud. The entrance is underwater, and tunnels lead to the living quarters above water.

The beaver digs channels for swimming to food supplies. Branches are stored underwater for winter food.







COYOTE

The coyote of North America is a very good hunter. It has keen eyesight, hearing, and smell. Coyotes eat rodents, birds, carrion (dead animals), and insects. Because of this varied diet, they can live in many different places. Coyotes are found in towns and cities as well as in wilderness country.

In the winter, coyotes grow long, thick hair that helps them stay warm.







BISON

These bison are deep in the snow of Yellowstone National Park. They use their huge heads and powerful necks like shovels, making a sweeping movement from side to side to push the snow away from the buried grass. Behind the bison, Old Faithful geyser is shooting up streams of boiling water.

Below, a frisky bison calf runs for its mother. Most calves are born in the spring.

Spring is a wonderful time of the year, when the earth comes alive. The small flowers above, called shooting stars, bloom early in the spring. The petals are purple with a small band of yellow behind a black point.



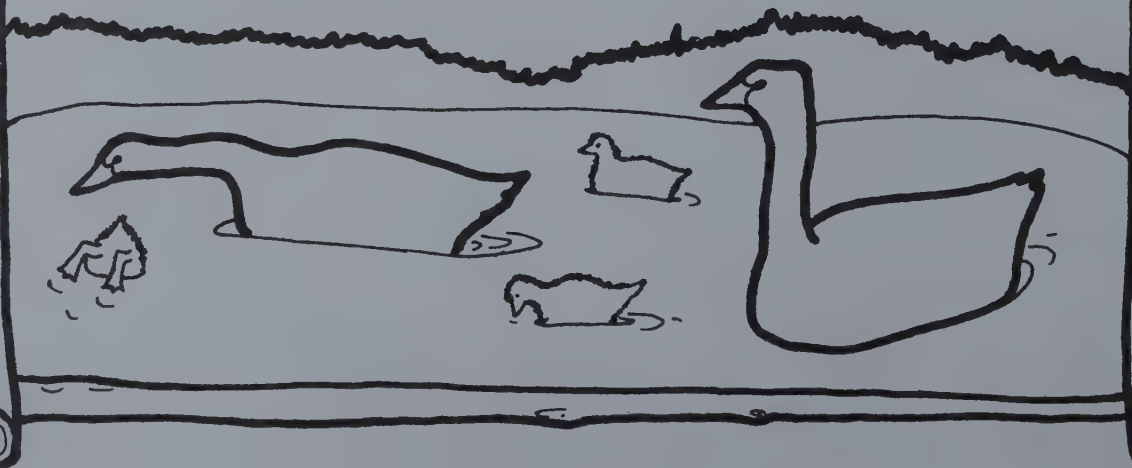


TRUMPETER SWAN

These trumpeter swans have their nest prepared and are waiting for their eggs to hatch. The hen lays 1 to 6 eggs. About 35 days later the cygnets will break out of their hard shells. The cygnets are grey but will gradually turn snowy white like the adults.

The full-grown male weighs 25 to 30 pounds. His wings measure 8 feet from tip to tip.

Bordering this page are pussy willow branches. The blossoms of the pussy willow are softer than your pussy cat.







ELK

A watchful cow elk gives her calf a tender touch. The mother smells her calf as she touches it. She will know it is hers by smell and sight.

A calf is born with a white-flecked coat that helps it blend in with the shadows and sun spots on the forest floor. This makes it difficult for predators to see.

A newborn calf weighs about 35 pounds. An adult elk weighs from 500 to 800 pounds.







ELK

In the autumn a bull elk, or wapiti, bugles his daring call to other bull elk. It is the time of year for mating, and the bulls will fight one another for the harem (herd of cows and calves).

As autumn turns to winter, the bulls forget about the cows and stay in bachelor herds. Deep snow forces many elk to migrate long distances in search of food.

In March most of the bulls will shed their antlers. They grow new antlers in 6 months. If the elk have plenty to eat and are healthy, the antlers grow a little larger each year. Cows do not grow antlers.







AMERICAN ROBIN

Pretty robin red breast has a nest full of hungry fledglings. The nest is made from grass, horsehair, feathers, and mud. The robin's egg is a beautiful sky blue. Many times, after the fledglings have hatched, broken shells can be found on the ground near the nest.

Both parents will busily feed the young ones. A young robin is fed mainly insects. This robin is having a tug-of-war with a worm.



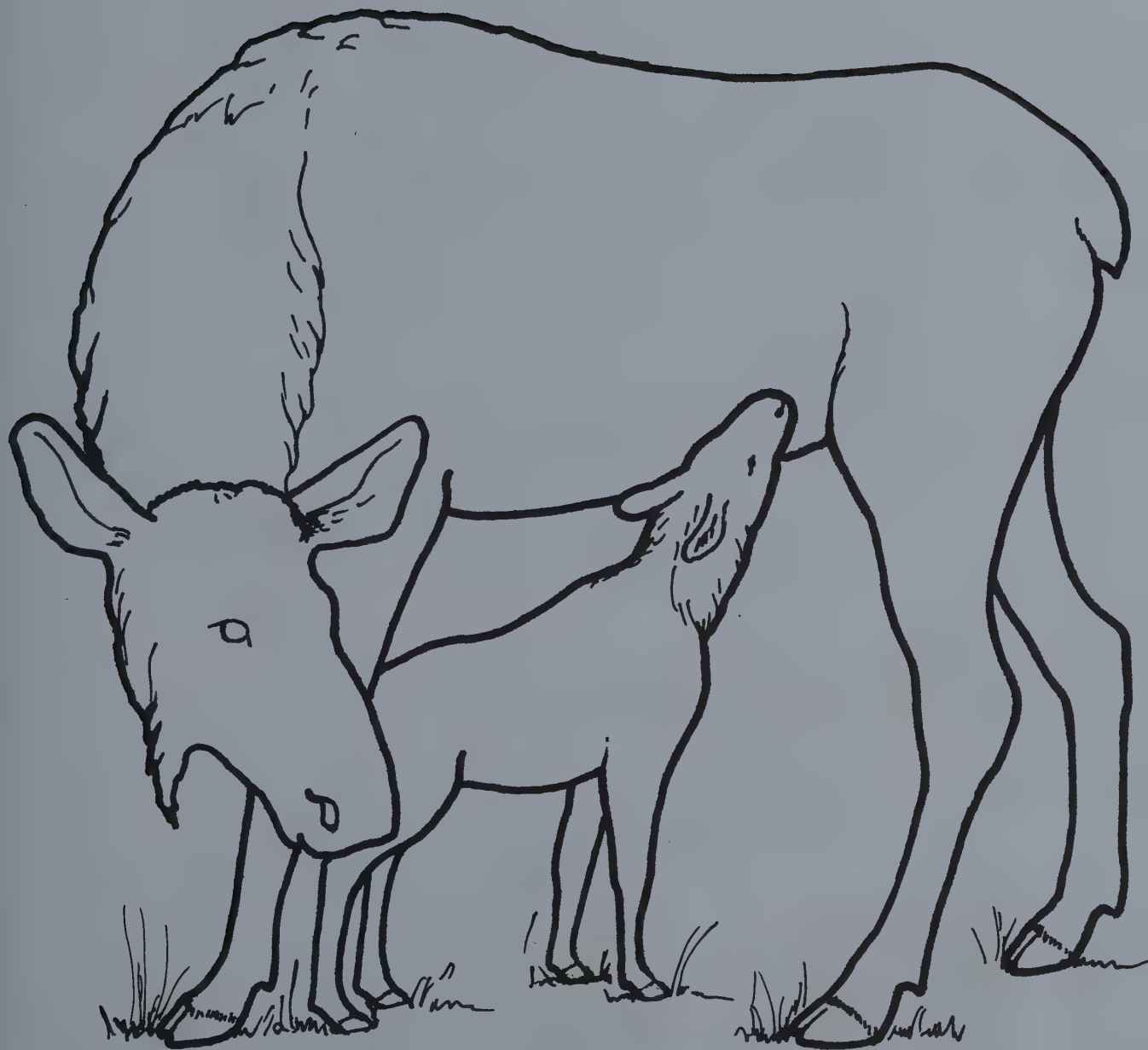


MOOSE

A cow moose nuzzles her newborn calf. Soon after the calf is born it will make its first attempt to stand up. Even though it is very wobbly and weak it will soon find mother's milk. A little Shiras, or Wyoming calf, weighs only about 30 pounds. Adults weigh from 700 to 1,200 pounds. The moose is the largest member of the deer family.

Moose eat grass, willows, and plants that grow in water.







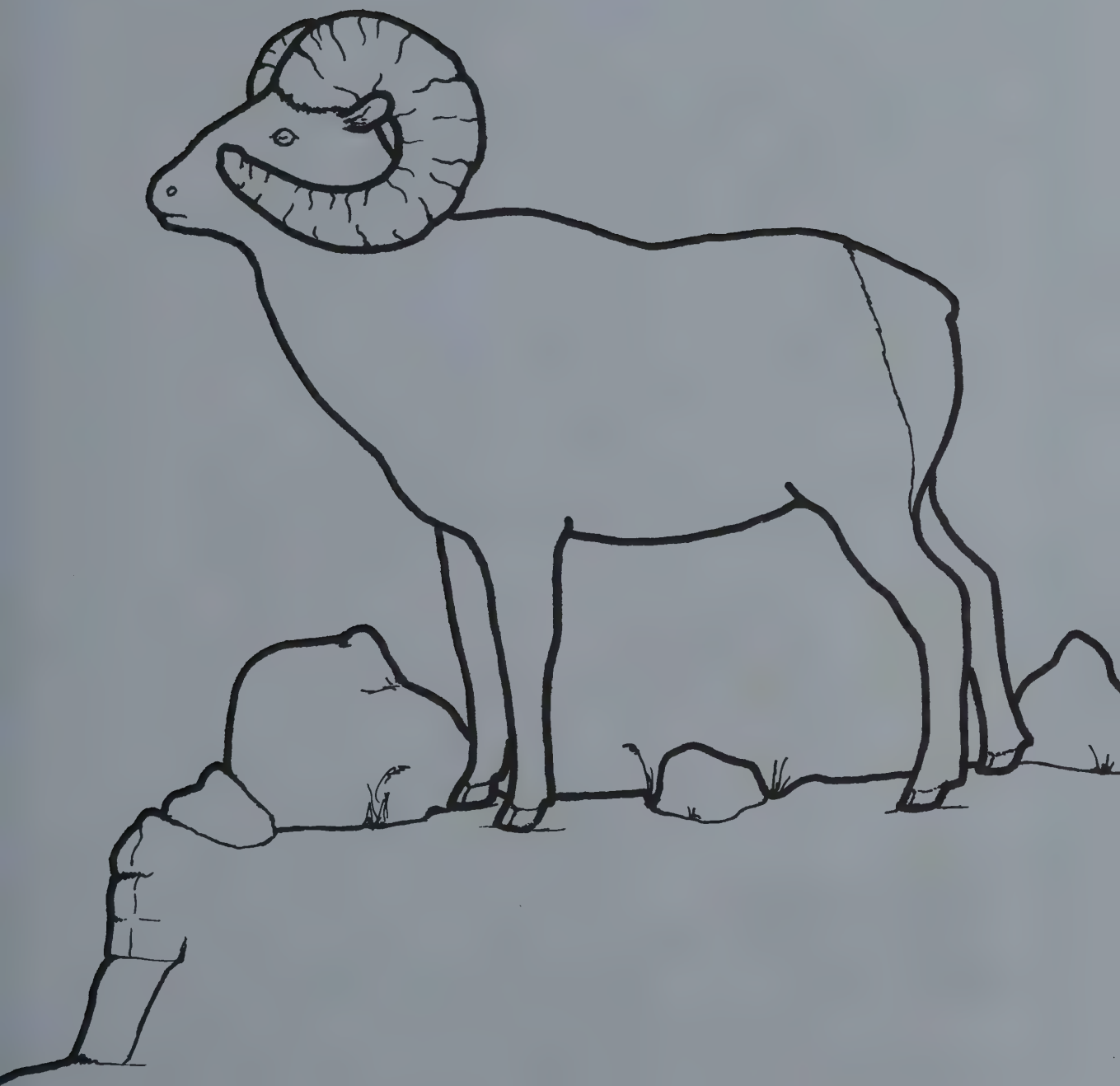
BIGHORN SHEEP

High in the mountains you might see a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep with large curling horns. Bighorn sheep have sharp eyesight, and from high lookouts they watch for danger. With their specialized, non-skid hooves they can run and jump in places where we would have a hard time crawling.

The ewe's horns are much smaller than the ram's and grow straight, like two little spikes.

The little brownish-grey animal above is a neighbor of the sheep. The pika, or coney, makes its home high in the mountains under rocks.





PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

The two pronghorn antelope are alert to danger. They have keen eyesight, sharp ears, and a good sense of smell. This helps them to know when an enemy is near. Their great speed—almost a mile a minute—is their best defense. Rolling plains and sagebrush flats are good places to look for antelope.

The doe has small horns, seldom over 4 inches long. The buck has larger horns that may grow up to 18 inches.

The fawns below are patiently waiting for their mother to return. The doe hides her young ones in a place with good cover and wanders off a short distance to find food.



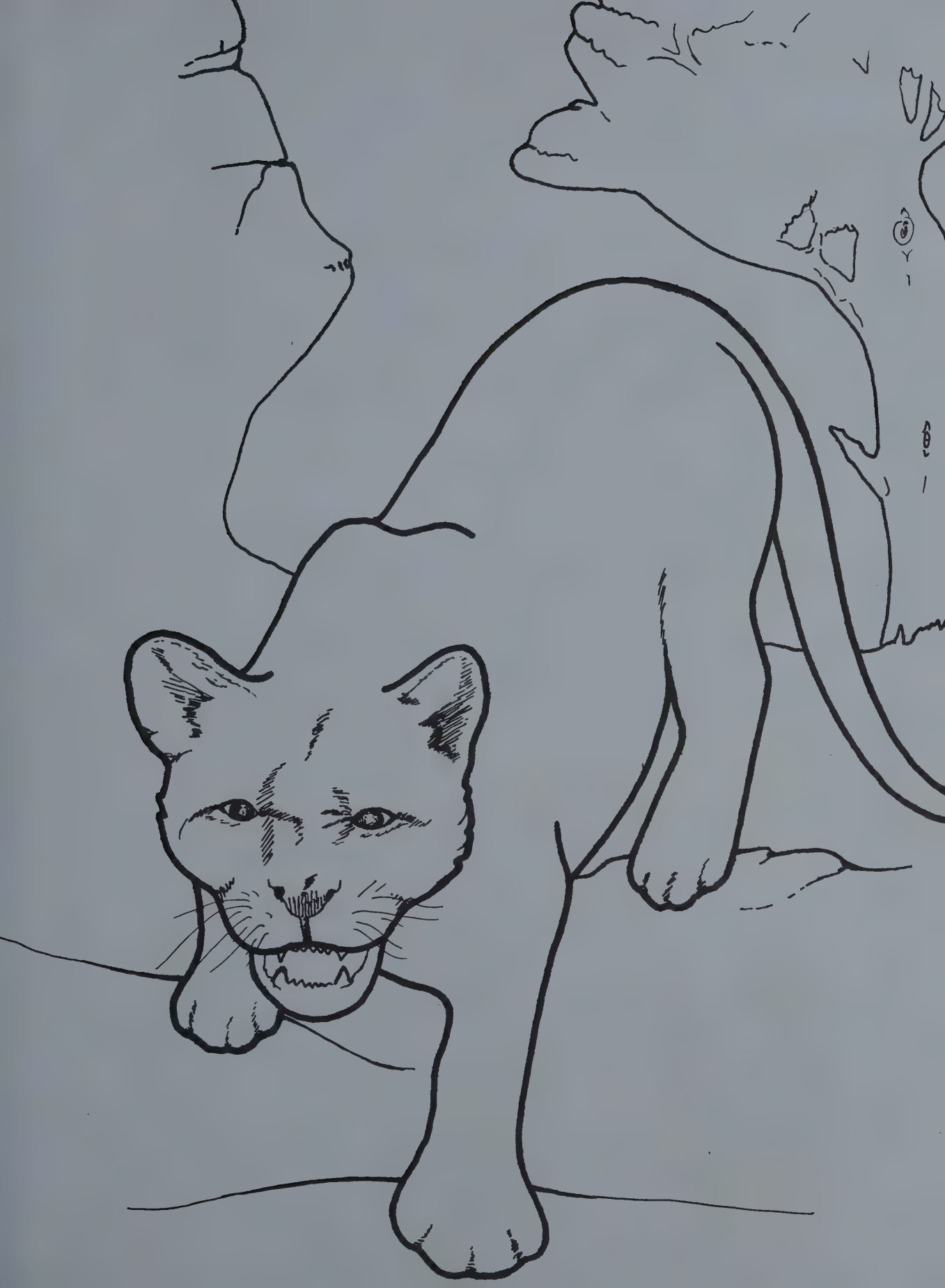


MOUNTAIN LION

The mountain lion is a silent, gliding figure as it hunts for food. The adult male weighs from 135 to 175 pounds and is powerful enough to kill a deer. "Puma" and "cougar" are other names for the mountain lion. The adult is light brown with dark markings on its head and the tip of its tail. The yellow eyes of the big cat are very sharp.

Mountain lion kittens have fuzzy, spotted coats. At birth they weigh 1 pound or less. As the kittens grow, their spots disappear. Young mountain lions stay with their mother for at least a year.





SKUNK

It sure doesn't smell like a flower—and it looks like a skunk. The skunk is black and white, with markings that vary from small white stars on its forehead to wide or narrow white stripes down its back.

The skunk, or pole cat, eats such things as insects dug out of rotten logs, berries, and mice.

To protect itself from predators, the skunk has a strong, stinky musk gland. When attacked it will lift its tail and spray the enemy in its eyes.

The bright yellow flower is a sagebrush buttercup. It is one of the first flowers to bloom in the spring.







MEADOWLARK

The meadowlark could take first prize among the meadow birds for singing.

The meadowlark feeds as it hops and walks through the grass. So much of its time is spent on the ground that it has become a strong walker. It eats caterpillars, grasshoppers, and other insects, as well as seeds and plants.

The meadowlark feels comfortable down in the grass, so that is where it chooses to build its nest. The nest is hidden by tangled brush and tall grass.

The meadowlark is the state bird of Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, and Wyoming.





MULE DEER

These mule deer have gone down to the shores of Jackson Lake to drink. On the west shore of the lake is Mount Moran, which is part of the Teton Range. Skillet Glacier is the big white patch of snow and ice in the center of Mount Moran.

A mule deer buck stands about 3 to 4 feet high at the shoulder. He has a very muscular build and weighs from 150 to 250 pounds. Each year he loses his antlers and will grow a new set. The doe is smaller and does not have antlers.

The butterfly is busy gathering nectar from a wild rose. The rose blossom turns into a deep red fruit called a rose hip.





BALD EAGLE

The bald eagle is a symbol of freedom as it flies in the sky or perches in a tree. This proud eagle is America's national bird.

A young bald eagle is brown until it is 3 or 4 years old. Then the feathers on its head, neck, and tail begin to turn white. An adult eagle measures 30 to 40 inches long. The wing spread from tip to tip measures about 7 feet.

In America we can enjoy wildlife and all of the wonderful sights of nature. We should be proud of our country. It is very important that we do our part to keep America a beautiful place for ourselves and for all the wonderful things, like the bald eagle, around us.

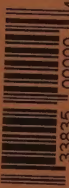




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